

SAYS SOCIETY MATRON STOLE BRIDE'S GOWNS

Mrs. Knight Arrested in Asheville Said to Be Kleptomaniac.

ASHEVILLE, Jan. 15.—It was learned today that Mrs. L. V. Knight, a pretty young woman and a leader in the younger smart set, had been arrested, charged with robbing Mrs. W. H. Wilcox, a Christmas bride and prominently in exclusive society, of several valuable gowns, part of her trousseau, and a number of wedding presents.

The warrant was sworn out by Mr. Wilcox, and when Mrs. Knight was in custody the police searched her apartment at one of the principal hotels. Some of the plunder was recovered, the former being found in Mrs. Knight's trunk. It was announced by the authorities.

When word of his wife's dilemma was taken to him Mr. Knight declared the charges would be true, and admitted Mrs. Knight did not deny the robbery, but asserted that her mental condition was such that she was not responsible; that physicians would bear her out in this statement. It is a fact that Mrs. Knight has been receiving treatment at a sanitarium here for about a year.

The accused woman was released in bonds till Jan. 17. She left town with her husband.

GAS TRUST MUST ANSWER CHARGES.

Complaints of Inferior Gas and Low Pressure Made to State Commission.

Representatives of the Consolidated Gas Company will appear in Albany today and endeavor to convince the State Gas Commission that New York gas is good. Charges have been made that the quality of the gas supplied is inferior and that the pressure is low.

Before the local trust there are forty or more companies throughout the State accused. The commission wants the companies to install in their plants instruments for testing the candle-power of their product, claiming this will be a safeguard to consumers. It is likely the investigation will be shifted from Albany to this city before it is ended.

FATHER KILLS TWO SONS.

GENEVA, O., Jan. 15.—George J. Moreland, a farmer living near Trumbull Centre, suddenly became insane today and killed his two sons, aged seven and nine, respectively, by slashing their throats with a razor.

17,000 GIVE THEIR AID TO CHARITY

That Many Tickets Sold for To-Night's Ball and Drift of Brooklyn K. of C.

More than seventeen thousand admission tickets have been disposed of for the charity ball of the Knights of Columbus, which will be held at the Forty-seventh Regiment Armory, Marcy avenue, between Heyward and Lynch streets, Brooklyn, to-night.

The programme consists of a parade and drill of the uniform corps of the Knights of Columbus and the First New York Regiment. The drill will begin at 8:30 o'clock and half an hour later the grand march will be started, led by Hugh J. McCormack and Miss M. McCormack.

A year book descriptive of the order, since its inception will be given to the guests as souvenirs.

The armory will be decorated with American flags, shield drops and the colors of the Knights of Columbus. As a relief from the solemnity of the hall, there will be a liberal distribution of the most popular piano, fern and other potted plants.

CAR WENT UP, SHE FELL INTO SHAFT

Cleaner Stepped Backward and Dropped Three Stories to Her Death.

Norah Powers, of No. 98 Warren street, Brooklyn, employed as a cleaner at the Broad Exchange building, No. 15 Broad street, stepped backward into an elevator shaft to-day and fell three stories to the basement. The woman was removed to the Hudson Street hospital, suffering from a fracture of both legs and internal injuries. She died an hour later.

The accident occurred before the tenants in the building had commenced to arrive. John Carlson, an elevator runner, took Mrs. Powers from the basement in his car. She alighted on the third floor. According to the police, she stepped backward. The car had started up. Carlson, they declared, had not closed the door.

Carlson ran his car to the first floor and summoned Patrolman Arthur Connell, of the Old Slip Station. They carried the injured and unconscious woman from the bottom of the elevator well. Carlson was arrested and taken to the Tombs Court.

SAYS KESSLER WELCHED FOR \$20,000 DEBT

Gambler Dave Johnson's Charge Against Wine Man Leads to Scrap.

Friends of "Dave" Johnson and George A. Kessler are holding out the olive branch to-day with aching arms, for they have had almost a continuous performance as peace-makers for this good while. Kessler, wine agent and head of the firm of G. A. Kessler & Co., is accused by "Dave," one of the leading gamblers of the country, of "welching" on him to the tune of \$20,000, and one fight with a woman in it, which occurred in a Broadway restaurant, is already to their credit. Another was averted only by the interference of mutual friends last night.

"They'll meet yet," whisper their friends, in tones that show their horror at the prospect.

Johnson was running a place where a fellow could bet a little or any other sum—down at Narragansett several years ago, when Kessler is said to have found himself \$25,000 in the rear after a night's play. He was given credit, and came away. In the press of business the little affair slipped clear out of his mind, but a law firm jogged his memory, and he paid \$5,000 on account. It is related, "Time went right on, and the alleged debt went with it, until New Year's night Kessler extended his hand to Johnson and suggested a warm and friendly shake.

Johnson declined to settle it that way. Then came a late supper in a restaurant. Kessler was eating with a young woman when Johnson took a seat near. While Johnson, in leaving, was inserting his arm down the dark sleeves of his overcoat, it is said Kessler and his woman friend went at him. The girl landed with her fan in his nose, says the story, while the two men folded themselves in each other's arms and rolled over on the floor. Ever-present mutual friends pulled them apart before any real damage was done. The breaking of Johnson's specs, was done. "They'll meet yet," and out that fighting, is the verdict of the mutuals.

\$500,000 CHICAGO FIRE.

CHICAGO, Jan. 15.—Half a million dollars' worth of property was destroyed by a fire which burned at the corner of Madison and Dearborn streets, occupied by J. A. Dearborn & Co., printers and publishers; the Thalheimer Printing Company; the Alcornhouse, Edward Fleming, Company; bookbinders; George H. Benedict & Co., publishers; W. B. Reeves, Printing and Publishing Company; Thomas W. Jackson Publishing Company; Andalusia Cork Company; Voice of the Republic Publishing Company; and Abbott Brothers, wholesale druggists.

Notion Specials
At Half Price.
STEEL-STUDDED ELASTIC BELT
LENGTHS, all styles; regularly
worth \$2 to \$7.50, at just Half.
10c Hat Pins, each at 5c

DINE IN THE
SPLENDID RESTAURANT
Simpson Crawford Co.
SIXTH AVE. 19th TO 20th STREET. NEW YORK.

Pyrography Outfits
Half Priced.
Nothing held back. All Stamped
Wood and Burning Outfits to be
cleared out, including boxes, trays,
frames, etc. Any article at Half former price.

To-morrow Will Begin Our Great Annual Pre-Inventory Clearance in Every Department.

We take stock February 1st. You know what that means in a store such as this. We cannot count the small lots, the odds and ends, the little gatherings of this thing and that thing bound to accumulate where selling is steady and large. All of this sort of merchandise is to be included in this Pre-Inventory Clearance which begins to-morrow. We can only mention a few lots at a time, but every day through the balance of January such bargains will be yours as have never been seen in this store. Ready to-morrow morning.

SILKS Pre-Inventory Clearance.
All-Silk Colored Beau de Ceyne.
Every wanted color. Value, 69c. yard. To clear 49c

Imported White Louisine. 49c
Value 75c. To clear.

Remnants of Silk. Values up to \$1.00 a yard. To clear. 25c to 35c

DRESS GOODS Pre-Inventory Clearance.
New Pekin and Roman Stripe Suits.
64-inch width. Same pieces of the coming season's creations; fresh new goods; approved Spring weights; worth \$1.50 the yard. To clear. 75c

Imported English Fancy Mohairs; patterned after London. Twenty different styles; over-plaid and shadow checks; regularly \$1.50. Clearance price. 89c

Black Chiffon Broadcloth; bright, light, high finish; jet black chiffon weight; fine value \$1.35 yard. Clearance price. 89c

WASH GOODS Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Remnants of Wash Goods. 9c
Values up to 19c. yard. To clear.

Pillow Cases—of yard wide, extra quality muslin, 45x35 inches. To clear. 81c

Bed Sheets—linen finished, no seams, for full size beds. Value 69c. To clear. 55c

Silk Mull—all plain shades. 37-inch width. Value 19c. To clear. 12c

LINENS Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Remnants Table Cloths; 1,000 of Austrian damask, handsome patterns; for ordinary size tables; regular \$1.50. Clearance price \$1

Breakfast Napkins; 500 dozen; all linen; 20-inch square; grass bleached; value \$1.25 dozen. Clearance price, per doz. 98c

Crochet Bed Spreads; 250; Marcellines patterns; hemmed and full size; value 95c. Clearance price. 75c

Huckaback Towels; 200 dozen; all white, figured huck; hemmed; 20x40 inches; value 22c. Clearance price. 15c

EMBROIDERIES Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Manufacturers' Ends and sample pieces. Reg. 10c yard. Clearance price. 5c

Edgings and Insertions; sample pieces and odd lengths. 20-yard values. Clearance price. 10c

Sample Stripes and Manufacturers' Ends; bonds, edgings, skiftings. Values to 29c yard. Clearance price. 15c

Flounceings and Skirtings for children's dresses. 21 and 27 inches wide. Value 50c yard. Clearance price. 29c

HANDKERCHIEFS Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Mussed and Soiled Handkerchiefs—various assortments, including initialled. 15c values. To clear. 9c

Women's Initialled Handkerchiefs—linen—also men's and women's hem-stitched and reverse edge. 10c. Value To clear. 5c

Fine Linen Handkerchiefs—mussed and soiled, a variety of styles. Regular 19c. Value To clear. 19c

LACES Pre-Inventory Clearance.
3,000 Yards of Wide Torchon Lace and Insertions; newest designs; values 10c. yard, clearing at. 5c

Wash Laces; best French, German and English make; edgings and insertions to match; worth 20c to 35c the yard; to clear. 10c, 15c, and. 19c

St. Gall and Plauen Laces; Braids, Medallions, Appliques; Venise, Batiste, Baby Irish, etc. 38c. Value clearing at, per yard. 50c

Chiffon and Mousseline in white, cream and black; 30c. value to clear. 33c

JEWELRY Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Bead Hand Bags; black and gilt, black and steel, steel and white; worth \$3. Clearance. 1.95

Novelty Bracelets; chased and stone set; values \$1. To clear. 45c

Vell and Brooch Pins; foreign and domestic makes; values \$1.50. Clearance. 50c

SILVERWARE Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Tea, Sugar & Coffee Spoons; 10c Rogers All; value 25c. each. To clear. 10c

Dessert and Table Spoons or Forks, Butter Knives; value 40c. To clear. 20c

Sterling Silver Top Salt and Pepper Shakers; 33c. Value. To clear. 19c

TOILETS Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Hot Water Bottles—warranted. To clear. 2 qt. size 49c, 3 qt. size. 59c

Imported Tooth Brushes—Values to 20c. To clear. 10c

Keep-Clean Hair Brushes—To clear. 48c

Bath Brushes—real bristles, with or without handles. 75c values. To clear at. 39c

Ideal Talcum Powder—3 boxes for. 25c

BELTS Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Glove Kid Belts—fine quality in all colors; many with buckles in back. \$1.00 Value. To clear at. 50c

LEATHER BAGS Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Carriage and Envelope Bags—of genuine leather, with high neck, long and short lengths. Values 69c. Clearance price. 35c

Children's Shirts, Drawers and Pants of natural wool. Regularly 75c. Clearance price. 50c

Men's Shirts and Drawers; natural wool; with self-fabric, with pearl buttons. Drawers have continuous open seams. Regularly \$1.50. Clearance price. \$1.00

To-Morrow: The Annual Clearance of Women's Suits, Coats & Skirts

The price range is very wide—but we can't help it. For instance, there are a hundred coats that have sold up to \$20—now marked \$7.75. There are Suits worth up to \$30—for \$9.75. There are Costumes worth up to \$95—now marked \$42.50. This is the general trend of the way we have priced the garments—and to-morrow's selling is sure to make big inroads into the various lots. Be here early.

19.75 for Women's 27.50 Broadcloth Coats.

An important lot of recently designed coats, 52 inches long, handsomely made of imported black Broadcloth, collarless effect; neck and cuffs outlined with silk braid; interlined and lined with best satin. Also a few Velours in the lot, impossible to duplicate under \$34.75. To clear at. 19.75

40 Suits in Cheviots and mixtures; usual value \$24.75. Clearance price. 9.50

30 Suits in Broadcloth, Cheviot and a few mixtures. In this lot are pretty Pony and Coat Suits. Regular price \$34.75. To clear at. 14.75

60 Suits in Broadcloth, Cheviot and mixtures, also, at the same price, a few velvet suits. Sold regularly for \$45. Clearance price. 24.75

20 Suits of handsome imported Broadcloth; some 3/4 length; others short models. The season's novelties in cloth and velvet. Our regular \$50 Suits. Very special at 27.50

Broadcloth Suits—A number of this season's new models; also a few short models in velvet; all fashionable shades. Formerly sold for \$75 and \$85. For this sale. 34.75

Gowns for Street Wear—We've taken just thirty from our regular stock. Princess or two piece. Formerly \$15 to \$35. To clear at. 42.50

Evening Coats—Various and exclusive models. Made of chiffon Broadcloth in the latest colorings; richly trimmed; 50 inches long. Regularly \$35 to \$45. To clear. 25.00

Broadcloth Coats; also English Kersey; 52 inches long; single and double breasted; beautifully trimmed with braid, best satin lined; 24.75 value at. 13.75

50 Women's Skirts—Graceful, and handsomely tailored; six different styles; made of hard twisted French Voiles, in double box and side pleated models; some have braid or self trimming over excellent quality Cheviot Taffeta drop. Skirts that sold for \$19.75 to \$22.50. To clear at 12.75

100 Women's Skirts—Odds and ends. Severely made and finished in double box, side pleat and full skirted model; of excellent Panama, in blue, brown and black; some imported gray worsteds and mannish stripes; also invisible plaids. Formerly sold up to \$15.50. At. 7.75

100 Coats at \$7.75.

In this lot are Coats worth up to \$20. Made of Black Cheviot, 50 inches long; full draping model; collarless; neck and cuffs of velvet. Tastefully trimmed with braid; yoke and sleeves satin lined; semi and snug fitting models; some extraordinary values.

Two Great Specials in Misses' Wear

\$12.00 for Misses' Suits of Cheviot, fancy mixtures and invisible stripes and checks—all desirable colorings; natty hip length Coat, double breasted, satin lined; full pleated skirt; sizes 14 to 16 years. Not to be duplicated under \$22.50.

\$8.75 for Misses' Long Loose Coats of Cheviot in black and blue only; trimmed with velvet; collarless effect; full sleeves with deep velvet cuffs to match collar; very desirable garment; sizes 14 and 16. Not to be duplicated under \$16.50.

Great Clearance of ROBES.

Unquestionably the Most Important Store Event of the Year.

\$5 for one great lot of \$10 and \$15 Spangled Robes; exquisite examples of fine work; large, generous patterns; cut in the most approved fashion; perfect beauties.

\$15 for choice of Sample Robes; very daintiest styles; never sold anywhere for less than \$25

\$10 for \$20 to \$25 Robes. **\$18** for \$25 to \$40 Robes.

\$25 for \$45 to \$60 Robes. **\$45** for \$75 to \$125 Robes

Included in the complement of kinds is every sort of Robe for afternoon and evening wear—no matter what the occasion.

Black Lace Robes. **White Lace Robes.** **Lierre Lace Robes.** **Spangled Lace Robes.** **Princess Lace Robes.** **Brussels Lace Robes.** **Gold Spangled Robes.** **Hand-Made Lace Robes.**

Those who have seen this collection pronounce it the finest we have ever had in the store—that is, saying a good deal. At the same time, we know they are the lowest priced—quality considered—any we have ever had.

SHEET MUSIC Pre-Inventory Clearance.
5,000 Sheets of Popular Music, including many recent hits and operatic success. To clear, each, at. 5c

Souza Dance Folio—Containing many popular and latest selections; twelve regular 50c numbers. To clear. 20c

CHINA Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Austrian China Dinner Sets—very thin desirable composition. 101 pieces; dainty pink roses and spray decorations; gold lined; 16.50 price. Regularly \$19.50. Clearance. 16.50

Toilet Sets—10 pieces; beautiful violet decorations in pure white porcelain body; gold stippled. Regularly \$1.95. Clearance price. 2.95

French and English China Cups and Saucers—one large table of various shapes, sizes and decorations for table use or closet decorations. Value from \$15 to \$35 dozen. Clearance price, per pair. 50c, 75c and \$1

RUGS Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Axminster Rugs—27x60 inches. A showing of all the new oriental patterns and colors. Regularly \$2.50. Clearance price. 1.95

Axminster Rugs—36x72 inches. Regularly \$4.50. Clearance price. 3.50

Wilton Velvet Rugs—6x7 feet. In one solid color—oriental patterns. Regularly \$12.50. Clearance price. 8.25

FURNITURE Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Buffet; of golden oak polish finish; leaded glass panels in base; 2 top drawers; 1 lined for silver. Regularly \$125. Clearance price. 18.50

China Closet; of golden oak, round bent glass ends; 3 grooved shelves and french shape legs. Regular \$21.00. Clearance price. 18.25

MILLINERY Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Dress and Street Hats—in a final clean-up; worth up to \$15. Clearance price. 7.50

Ready-to-Wear Hats—100; all seasonable goods; value up to \$7.50. To clear at. 2.45

RIBBONS Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Fine Quality Taffeta, 3 1/2 inch, in light pink, light blue, cardinal, navy, fuchsia, also white and black. Value 2 1/2c. To clear. 19c

WAISTS Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Colored and Black Wool Waists; also some black taffeta in the lot. Value, To clear. 2.98

Taffeta Silk Waists; in plaids, grays, browns and navy; some worth up to \$8.50. To clear. 4.98

FURS Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Broadcloth Coats—clear Russian squirrel lined and 100 inches long; Persian lamb shawl collar. Regularly \$40. Clearance price. 29.75

Sable and Isabella Fox Large Pel-erine—with long tails. Regularly \$22. Clearance price. 17.50

Black Lynx Throw Scarfs—Regularly \$15. Clearance price. 9.50

Blended Mink Muffs—heat and taity muffs. Regularly \$18.50. To clear. 11.50

CORSETS Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Domestic Brands—balance of an up-to-date lot; slightly soiled; sizes 14 to 20. Clearance price. 48c

J. B. Corsets—Col. L and Jean; medium and high; closely boned; sizes 14 to 20. Clearance price. 65c

C. B. & J. B.—short, medium and extra long; slightly soiled; well boned; pie tite trimmings; sizes 14 to 20. Regularly \$1.25. Clearance price. 74c

C. B., J. B. & H. H.—up-to-date fitting corset with full front and sides. Regularly \$1.50. Clearance price. 95c

GLOVES Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Women's Mousquetaire Kid 8-button length; black and tan. To clear. 1.10

Women's Street Gloves—odd pairs. To clear. 89c

Women's Cash Gloves—of merino, velvet and cashmere; satin lined; 50c value. To clear. 25c

Women's Long Capeskin Gloves—elbow length; tan shades. \$3.50 value at. 2.50

INFANTS' WEAR Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Children's Drawers—good muslin; finished with lace; sizes 1 to 12 years. Clearance price. 7c

Children's Drawers—good muslin, cambric, flannel, trimmed umbrellas style, 1 to 12 years. Regularly 10c. Clearance price. 10c

Children's Gowns—Hubbard style, muslin, tucked yoke. Regularly 39c. Clearance price. 25c

Children's Gowns, Drawers and Skirts of best muslin, pretty trimmed; muslin and odd lots. \$1.00 to \$1.25 values. To clear. 35c

Infants' Long and Short Dresses—neck and sleeves. Regularly 25c. To clear. 19c

Children's Walking Coats—fine material, many pretty styles; 1 to 12 years. Regularly \$3 to \$3.95. To clear. 1.00

HOUSE APPAREL Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Kimono Sacques—warm flannel, pretty stripes and colors; reg. 45c. To clear. 25c

Kimono Sacques—of Oriental cloth, prettily trimmed with silk fold. Reg. \$1.25. To clear. 50c

Dressing Sacques—of daisy cloth; attractive models; nicely trimmed; reg. \$1.00. To clear. 68c

Kimono Gowns—of fleeced cloth; attractive to clear. 51

MEN'S GOODS Pre-Inventory Clearance.
White Pleated Shirts. Clearance price. 79c

Cotton Night Shirts. Clearance price. 55c

White Madras and Colored Cheviot pajamas. Clearance price. \$1.00

CLOTHING Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Men's Overcoats of all wool fabrics, fancy or plain cloth; newest models; to fit every build. Regularly \$15. Clearance price. \$10

Men's Suits; seasonable and up-to-date styles in all the popular materials; single or double breasted; all sizes. Regularly \$15. Clearance price. \$10

Boys' Overcoats—For the little fellow up to 12 years; Russian or reofer style; all-wool clothes. Regular price to \$6.50. Clearance price. 3.95

Caps for cold weather; Angoras, all colors, wool sequins, every shade and cloth caps. Regular 69c. Clearance price. 39c

HOSIERY Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Women's Sample Hose and broken lots from our own stock. Values 25c and 29c pair. Clearance price. 17c

Women's Sample Hose and broken lots of hose from regular stock. Values up to 50c. Clearance price. 25c

Women's Sample Hose and discontinued numbers in various de-lins; the assortment. Values 69c to \$1. Clearance price. 49c

Men's Half Hose; brown mixed, heavy weight with bar-tique legs. Regularly 25c. Clearance price. 15c

Boots Pre-Inventory Clearance.
Gaiters—by Churchill. Clearance price. 5c

George Elliot's Work;